

CERTAIN
CONSIDERATIONS
AND
CAUTIONS

Agreed upon by the Ministers of *London,*
Westminster, and within the *Lines of Com-*
munication June 19. 1646.

According to which they resolve to put
the *Presbyteriall Government* in execution,
upon the Ordinances of PARLIA-
MENT heretofore published.

Published by Authority.



Donker 1246

LONDON,

Printed by T. R. and E. M. for *Ralph Smith* at the
sign of the Bible in Cornhill. 1646.

CERTAIN
CONSIDERATIONS
AND
CAUTIONS

It is found that the amount of water in the soil is not sufficient to grow the crops.

According to which they resolve to put
the Executive Committee in possession
of the Committee of the whole.

Published by: *University of Chicago Press*

754703

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and titles, including "The Hon. Mr. Justice" and "The Hon. Mr. Justice".

bearing date June 9. 1646.



Certain Considerations and Cautions agreed upon by the Ministers of London, Westminster, and within the Lines of Communication, June 19. 1646. according to which they resolve to put the Presbyteriall Government in execution, upon the

Ordinances of PARLIAMENT

heretofore published.

THE Ministers of Christ, residing within the Cities of London and Westminster, and Lines of Communication, having seen and read an Order of the Honorable House of COMMONS Assembled in PARLIAMENT, bearing

((4))

bearing date *June 9.* 1646. Requiring and Injoyning all the Ministers of the Province of *London* forthwith to put in execution the Ordinances concerning Church Government, Hold it requisite humbly and faithfully as in the sight of God to shew our judgements and resolutions about this weighty matter, for the clearing of our Integrities, and preserving our Consciences void of offence both towards God and towards man.

We have seriously pondered the present state of things; and find our selves, whether we act as is required, or act not, to be in a very great streight. On the one hand, Prelacy, being justly pulled down, and the Church miserably groaning under Disorder & Confusion, many things cry aloud upon us in our places to put Church Government into actuall execution;

(5)

tion; The Glory of God, the edification of his Church, the Duty of our Function, the Ingagement of our solemn Covenant with God, the command of the Civil Magistrate (which so far as we can with a good Conscience, we are resolved and hold it our Duty to obey,) and the present unspeakable miseries of the Church by wofull Divisions, Blasphemies, Heresies, abominable loosenesse, Libertinisme, and Atheisme, and the spirituall Ruine of many Congregations through false Teachers, or want of faithfull Pastors for lack of Ordination. On the other hand, upon consideration of all the Ordinances of PARLIAMENT about Church Government, wee finde many necessary things not yet established, and some things wherein our Consciences are not so fully satisfied: And therefore

fore in our beginning to act, we cannot but foresee, how likely we are to be finis-
terly interpreted by many, who are
prone to misconstrue all our actions of
this nature. We thereupon hold it neces-
sary to expresse upon what Grounds we
may proceed, to act upon the Ordinances
already established by Authority.

Although we conceive the power of
Church censures, and in particular the
keeping off Ignorant and Scandalous
persons from the Sacrament of the Lords
Supper, to be in Church Officers by the
Will and Appointment of Jesus Christ,
and from him they receive their Office
and Authority: Yet we acknowledge, it
belongs to the Magistrate to have his
Conscience satisfied in the truth of
that Government of the Church which
he will set up by his Authority, from
whom

whom the Church Officers do receive Authority of the publike exercise of their Offices in his Dominions. And in case the Magistrate be not so fully informed, as to set up a right and perfect Rule in every particular, the Church officers may yet act under that Rule; Provided, that they do not subscribe to, or otherwise acknowledge that Rule to be intire and right in all points.

And therefore for these particular Ordinances, although we humbly conceive that they do not hold forth a compleat Rule, nor are in all points satisfactory to our Consciences: Yet because we find many things established in them, agreeable to the Word of God (for which we desire heartily to blesse God, and to be thankful to the Honorable Houses,) Provision being made for inabling the Elderships by their Authority, to keep away from the Lords Supper all Ignorant persons, and many Scandalous persons, with a Declaration of their Resolution, that all Notorious and Scandalous Offenders shall be kept from the Sacrament, and that there shall be a further addition to the Scandalous offences formerly enumerated; We conceive it is
our

our duty to begin to act in reference to Church Government by Congregational, Classically, Provincial, and Nationall Assemblies, Resolving by the Grace of God to walk in all things according to the Rule of the Word, and according to these Ordinances so far as we conceive them correspondent to it; and to be accountable to the Magistrate whensoever he shall call us thereunto; Hoping so to carry our selves, as not only to enjoy his concurrence with us on all occasions; but also that he will supply what is lacking to make the Government intire, and likewise make alterations in all things that shall appear to be amisse. And in thus doing, we trust we shall not greive the spirits of the truly godly either at home or abroad; nor give any just occasion to them that are contrary minded, to blame our proceedings.

FINIS.

